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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, SIGINT Committee

SUBJECT: Intelligence Requirements for the National Reconnaissance SIGINT Program

1. This memorandum proposes that we use a new approach in formulating this year's intelligence requirements for the National Reconnaissance SIGINT Program.

2. It has been my impression that in recent years the SIGINT Five-Year Guidance has resulted in a statement of requirements that often do not reflect the realities of collection resource availability. The manner in which requirements have been formulated, prioritized and presented in the annual USIB guidance has provided little distinction between those needs that can be met by existing resources, those expected to be met by resources approved but not yet in being, and those which remain unsatisfied when all approved programs are in operation. The latter category is of particular interest to the R&D community and to those with production and estimative responsibilities, whose analyses must reflect the limitations of collection resources.

3. It seems to me to be particularly important that we take this into consideration as we enter the new round of discussions for this year's guidance. In November, the NRO EXCOM made program decisions which, in effect, tell us what capability we will have for the next five years, and it would be of service to the community of analysts and system developers if your Committee would explicitly differentiate between the requirements that will be filled by the programmed resources, and those which will not.

4. It is therefore proposed that for this year's SIGINT guidance the Committee identify our intelligence needs (for both collection and processing) and prioritize them under three categories: The first would represent those requirements which could be satisfied through

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existing operational systems. The second category would include those requirements which could not be satisfied under the existing operational collection system but which could be satisfied through the collection systems approved by the EXCOM for development during this five-year period. The third category of collection requirements would identify and describe the significance and relative value of those intelligence needs that would not be satisfied by either existing or programmed collection systems.

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Donald H. Steininger
Associate Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

cc: Director, NRO
Director, NSA
D/DCI/IC
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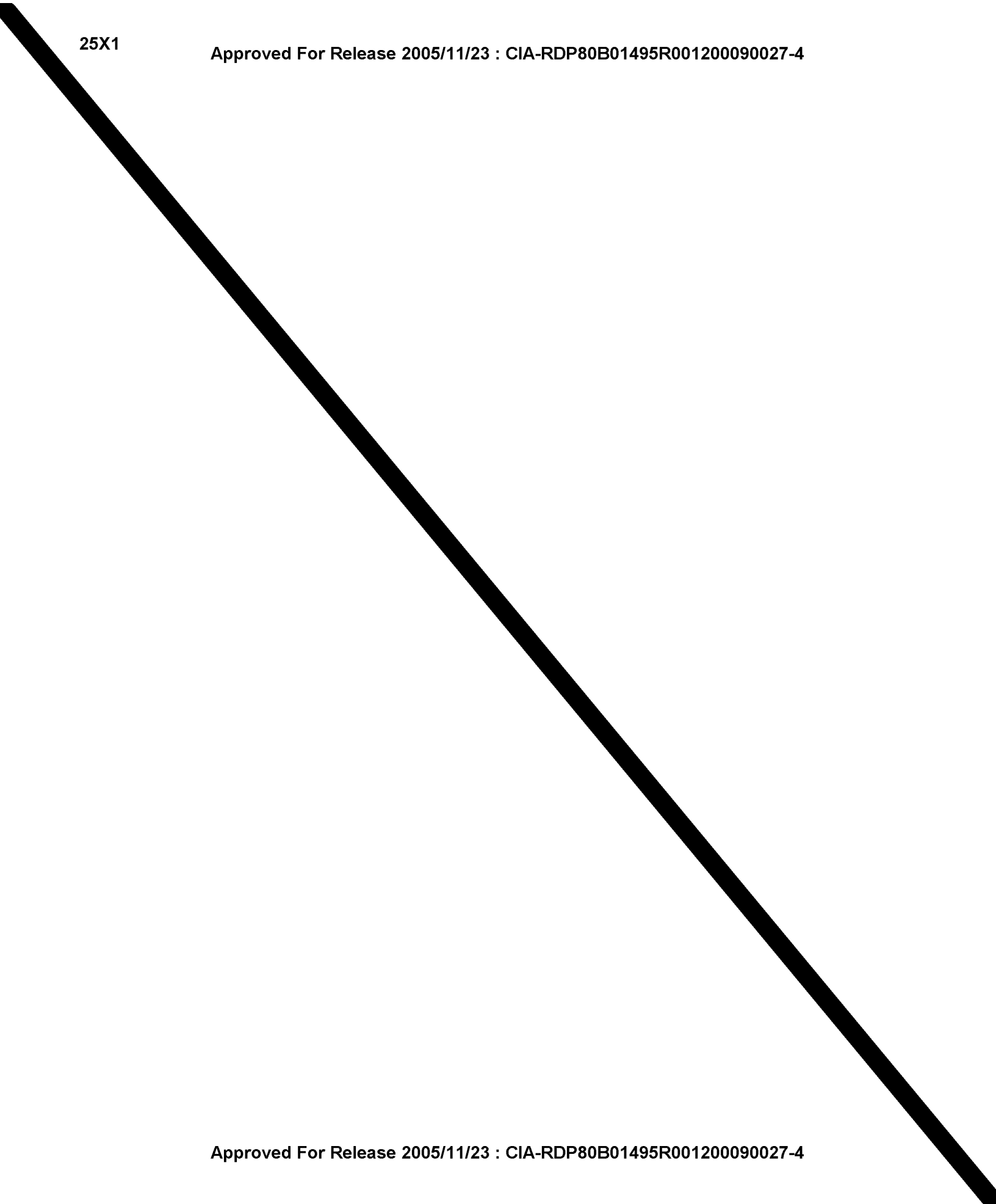

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